

DOE to fund \$12m to produce renewable carbon fiber from biomass

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The US Department of Energy (DOE) will fund up to \$12m for technologies to produce cost-competitive renewable carbon fiber from agricultural residues and woody biomass.

Carbon fiber produced from biomass is cost effective and offer greater environmental benefits compared to traditional carbon fiber produced from natural gas or petroleum. Moreover, Carbon fiber can replace steel and other metals to reduce the cost and improve performance of technologies like fuel-efficient vehicles and renewable energy systems.

The funding will support DOE's Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative that aims to ensure US manufacturers remain competitive in the global marketplace.

In addition, carbon fiber can also improve other clean energy technologies including wind turbine blades, pressurized hydrogen storage vessels for fuel cells and insulation materials for energy efficient buildings.

DOE said its Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy will facilitate deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and market-based solutions.